



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WOODBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1949.



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The Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Woodbridge.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my annual report for the year 1949. This report has been prepared on much the same lines as those for previous years.

1949 was on the whole a health year although infectious disease, mainly whooping cough and measles, was considerably above the previous year. These complaints however have a cycle and tend to recur when the number of immune children falls below a certain percentage.

With regard to the sanitary state of the district the present conditions can only be regarded as temporary and great improvements are expected when the Sewerage Scheme becomes a reality.

Housing in Woodbridge is perhaps an even greater problem than in other districts because of the amount of old property which is nearing the end of its usefulness.

I would in conclusion like to thank the Council and Officials for their continued trust and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers.

C. H. Imrie T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

G. Ogden M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

A. S T A T I S T I C S

1 General.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1949)	5380
Area of District in Acres.....	1097
Number of Inhabited Houses at 31.12.49.....	1776
Average number of persons per house.....	3
Rateable value of District.....	£34613
Penny Rate.....	£130.15.11

2 Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	57	37	94
Illegitimate	3	2	5

Live birth rate per 1000 population = 18.4

Live birth rate England & Wales = 16.7

BIRTH rate for 8 Years.

{	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	}
{	18.7	13.3	17.8	19.4	17.4	20.5	17.5	18.8	}

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

DEATHS. (all causes)

Male	Female	Total
40	47	87

Death rate per 1000 population = 14.3

Deaths (continued)

Death Rate England and Wales = 11.7

Death Rate Over 10 Years.

(1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.)
{ 14.3	13.2	13.3	10.7	14.6	17.2	14.2	14.3	12.7	17.0 }

Death of Infants under 1 Year.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1000 Live Births = 50.4

Rate per 1000 Live Births England & Wales = 32

Causes of Death Under 1 Year.

Cause	Male	Female
Birth Injury	1	-
Prematurity	2	-
Pulmonary abscess	1	-
Pneumonia	-	1
Total	4	1

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis Resp.	1	-	1
Influenza.	1	3	4
Cancer.	6	9	15
Intracranial Vascular Diseases.	4	5	9
Heart Disease.	13	20	33
Other Circulating Diseases.	1	-	1
Bronchitis.	-	2	2
Pneumonia.	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases.	1	-	1
Digestive Diseases.	2	1	3
Nephritis.	3	3	6
Premature Births.	2	-	2
Congenital Malformation or Disease.	2	-	2
Road Traffic Accidents.	1	-	1
Other Causes.	1	3	4
	<hr/>		
Totals	40	47	87
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Comment on the Statistics.

It will be seen from the above figures that the Birth Rate maintains a satisfactory level, being higher than in the preceeding two years and also higher than the rate for England and Wales. The absence of Stillbirths is also gratifying.

On the other hand the Death Rate is rather above the rate for the Country as a whole and the Infantile Death Rate is also rather high. I have included a table showing the infantile deaths by causes and it will be seen that birth injuries and prematurity account for 3 out of 5 cases.

Undue weight however must not be attached to yearly variations in vital statistics for a population as small as that of Woodbridge as the effect of a small increase or decrease in Births and Deaths is to produce a seemingly larger variation in the Births and Death rates.

It is of interest to note that Heart disease was responsible for approximately 34% of all deaths and that Cancer was next with 15%.

B. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

NON-TUBERCULOUS.

A total of 135 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the Year.

The biggest single item is whooping cough with 57 cases.

This is a considerable increase over the previous year.

It will be noted that most of the cases occurred in younger children of school age.

The case of poliomyelitis which occurred in September was a child. There was no evidence to show the origin of the infection.

Measles, with 48 cases was appreciably higher than in last year but did not approach epidemic proportions.

The two cases of food poisoning were probably infected when away on holiday. They were not serious and recovered.

Disease.	Age Group									Total 1949.	Total 1948.
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever			4	6	1					11	1
Pneumonia	1			2		2		5		10	11
Whooping cough	4	6	16	27	2	1	1			57	5
Measles	1	3	10	18	9	3	4			48	23
Chicken pox										-	4
Jaundice					1	1	1		1	4	11
Cerebro- spinal Meningitis										-	1
Food Poisoning	1						1			2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia										-	1
Poliomye- litis	1									1	2
Erysipelas							1	1		2	-
Totals										135	59

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (NON TUBERCULOUS).

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever				1		2	1	2		1	2	2	11
Pneumonia		1	2	3	1	1		1			1		10
Whooping Cough	1	4	11	4	11	6	17	2				1	57
Measles	2	6	16	11	4	3	5	1					48
Food Poisoning									2				2
Erysipelas							1	1					2
Poliomyelitis									1				1
Jaundice	2			1				1					4

Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics 1949.

Percentage of children aged 0 - 4 years immunised = 93.38

Percentage of all children immunised = 85.5

Reinforcing doses = 69

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE - TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number on Register 1st January 1949	12	2	10	1	25
Number notified during the Year	2			2	4
Number restored to Register after removal in previous period	1				1
Number added otherwise than by Notification	1	1	1	1	4
Number Removed from Register during the Year	1	1			2
Number remaining on Register at 31.12.49	15	2	11	4	32

Reasons for Removal from Register.

Died - 1 Male.

Recovered - 1 Male.

Tuberculosis Rate per 1000 population = 5.9

Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1000 population = 0.3

Tuberculosis Death Rate England & Wales = 0.45

C HOUSING

The Housing conditions are probably the most potent factor in a family's environment and can exert a vast amount of influence on the health and happiness of the members of the family and may even be decisive for good or ill.

In Woodbridge we have a large number of houses which are old and in some cases in poor repair but which continue to be occupied because of the Housing shortage. Wherever possible defects have been remedied but the fact remains that there are a number of houses which sooner or later will need to be replaced by modern dwellings.

The problem in Woodbridge has been tackled by an active building programme which has resulted in the erection of some 57 houses up to the end of 1948.

It will be seen however that the rate of building has not kept pace with new applications for houses as the waiting list increased during 1949 by roughly 100 families. The number of new houses occupied during this period was 34.

It is to be feared, unless the rate of building can be accelerated considerably that it will be many years before all who need it can be housed.

Number on Inhabited Houses	1776
Average number of persons per house	3
Number of houses built by the Authority	34
Number of houses built privately	2
Number of applications on Waiting List at beginning of the Year =	174
Number of applications on List at end of Year =	270

D PUBLIC CLEANSING.

In my report for 1947 I mentioned in some detail the methods of refuse and sewage collection and disposal which are employed by this Authority. During 1949 there was no material change in these methods.

Although these arrangements are the most workable and efficient under the circumstances they are long out of date and unsatisfactory by modern standards.

Little improvement however can be looked for until the Woodbridge & Melton Sewerage scheme is being.

The delays in implementing this scheme are to be deplored as it is difficult to imagine a town of equal size which is more in need of an up to date method of sewage disposal. It is to be hoped that the advent of this much needed utility will not be further delayed.

E WATER.

The Woodbridge Waterworks supplies not only the greater part of the Town but also certain parts of the adjacent parishes of Melton, Hasketon and Martlesham.

During the year the quantity of water available has proved adequate to meet all demands.

The quality of the supply is good - analyses indicate a high level of purity. The water is however extremely hard and there has not been any sign of plumbosolvency chlorination is done mechanically.

The total quantity of water consumed during the year was 54.5 million gallons, which represents approximately 25 gallons per head of the population per day.

Mains extensions totalling 1559 feet were laid during the period.

The water tower at the Waterworks has a capacity of approximately 48000 gallons which at the present average rate of consumption represents 4 hours supply. In my opinion this reserve may not prove sufficient in the future bearing in mind that considerable building activity is going on in the town and that at some not too distant time we hope to have our Sewerage Scheme in operation. This will inevitably make increased demands on the supply and will in consequence reduce the margin available for emergencies and breakdowns.

F. ACTION UNDER VARIOUS ACTS & REGULATIONS.

Housing Act 1936.

Number of Statutory Notices. Nil.

Number of Informal Notices. 9

Number of repairs and
improvements as a result of
personal visits. 7

Food & Drugs Act 1938.

Number of Inspections. 55

Factories Act 1937.

Number of Factories using Power 38

Number of Factories not using power 3

Number of Inspections 2

Number of defects detected and
remedied. 2

National Assistance Act 1948.

Action under Section 47 was not found necessary.

Ice Cream Regulations.

Number of premises licensed for storage and
sale only 3

Number of premises licensed for manufacture
and sale of ice cream 1

Milk & Dairies Orders 1926-1938.

Supplementary Licences issued for sale
of pasteurised Milk. 1
